

WORKERS' TIME

INTERNAL DOCUMENT No. 22

Student Fraction Report  
NUT Fraction Report  
Open letter to NC from Old Bolton Branch  
Minutes of debate with ROG  
NC Minutes

WORKING  
MEMORANDUM

Student Reaction Report  
The Reaction Report  
Minutes of the Board with HOS  
10 Minutes

## Student Fraction Report

### 1. NUS

Generally agreed that the student movement was politically weaker over the past year or two than the immediately preceding period. The left had in some cases lost ground, in others liberal or right wing elements had made gains. The decline was partly the failure of the left, partly the position of students, i.e. their inability to influence their situation (eg grants) as much as they aspired to.

### 2. Fascism & Racism

(Student comrades should re-read the article in WF 58 on the NUS resolution on racism and fascism) One of the most important issues to be taken up by student comrades in the coming academic year. The issue had in a sense given the right the chance to gain ground in the student movement. However, the issue being raised, gave the opportunity for the left to combat latent racism or indifference to racism. The polarisation in this sense is a necessary step for the left in fighting on the issue. That said, it should be remembered that the issue had been raised without any previous campaign of propaganda and in a very imprecise fashion. The need is to make general propaganda around the question, fight for Student Unions to support the 'by any means necessary' clause in the NUS resolution, and organise the left in the NUS to fight on the issue. With a view to the latter, comrades in Enfield college are attempting to call a conference of left wing students nationally for the 1st Saturday in November. It is hoped that both IS and IMG will back this conference (both have said they will, though the IMG more definitely than IS as yet). What is hoped to come out of this Conference is a clear resolution to put to the next NUS Conference, and to have built up a network of left wing students who can fight for the resolution in their colleges and make general propaganda round the issue. It is hoped that some sort of left liason group can be established (initially around this one issue but hopefully widening in scope, but the success or failure of this will depend on IMG and IS rather than WF).

### 3. Reports from Colleges

We have some scattered supporters in teacher training colleges, 2 people in Manchester University (1 soon in Manchester Poly), 1 in Liverpool University, 1 in Trent Poly, 4 members plus four supporters in Enfield college, 2 in Reading and little else. Once again our main base is Enfield college.

### 4. Education Cuts

It was agreed that following the government grants award and the routinism of the 'grants campaign' that grants as an issue in colleges will not be of immediate significance. (Though in some colleges it may be). What will be an issue is education cuts. The effects of these cuts will vary from university to poly to FE college, and from college to college. Struggles will be both national (ie NUS level) and local. It is probable though that local struggles will be most significant. Both general propaganda about the cuts and particular college circumstances should be made. The fraction organiser was instructed to prepare a series of notes, in liason with the NUT fraction, to appear in the IB, for the guidance of student members on the education cuts issue. It was also mentioned that a re-stating of the class bias which exists in Higher Education was necessary, as, though it was commonly accepted as a fact today, it was accepted passively as a fact of sociology and not as an injustice to be fought against and rectified.

### 5. Colonisation

Though discussed at length by the fraction, the only general conclusion to emerge was that the NC would have to take account of the specific problems in placing students in industry, case by case. These would include personal inclinations, personal idiosyncracies, family problems etc. The recruitment of students given WF policy on colonisation was also mentioned.